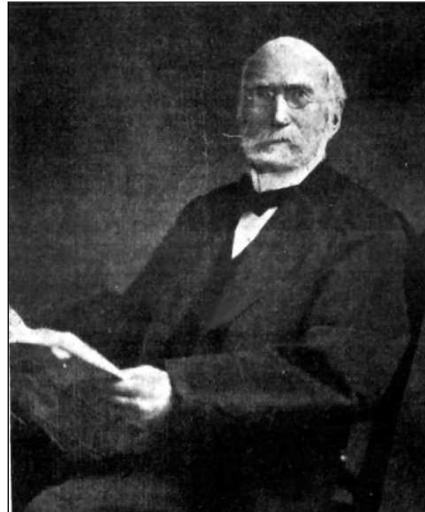


HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE



ANDREW ORR (1821 to 1908)
JOURNALIST AND POET

Andrew Orr was born in 1821 in Coleraine. Before leaving for Australia he contributed poetry to the "Nation" (founded in 1842 by Charles Gavin Duffy, Thomas Davis and John Blake Dillon in support of Daniel O'Connell's Repeal Association). He his family were ardent sympathisers with the Young Ireland movement.

On arriving in Ballarat, a city located on the Yarrowee in the state of Victoria, Australia, he worked as a miner in the Smythesdale Field. He also wrote for a local journal, at the same time acting as correspondent for *The Ballarat Star*. When the prosperity of Smythesdale declined, he accepted a position as reporter on *The Star* subsequently being promoted to the sub-editorial chair.

In later years a volume of his earliest poems, *In Exile Australia*, was published.

This is an extract of one of his poems published in *The Nation*, and reproduced in a Melbourne journal *Advocate*.

*The sunny South is glowing in the glow of southern glory,
And the Southern Cross is waving o'er the freest of the free;
Yet in vain, in vain my weary heart would try to hide the story
That evermore it's wandering back, dear native land to thee.
The heathy hills of Malazan, the Bann's translucent waters,
Glenleary's shades of hazel and Agivy's winding streams;
And Kathleen of the raven locks, the flower of Erin's daughters –
Lost heaven of wildering beauty! thou art mine at least in dreams!
O, the green land, the old land,
Far dearer than the gold land,
With all its landscape glory, and unchanging summer skies;
let others seek their pleasures
In the chase of golden treasures,
Be mine a dream of Erin and the light of Kathleen's eyes!*

Andrew Orr died on 3 August 1908 and was buried in Smythesdale Cemetery.